



WHEREAS, 82 rural counties in Illinois are the heart and soul of Illinois and the United States; and,

WHEREAS, these communities are fueled by the creative energy of their leaders – ordinary people willing to step forward, share and implement a vision, and drive change that benefits everyone; and,

WHEREAS, rural communities are places where residents know each other, listen to and respect each other, and work together for the greater good; and,

WHEREAS, health care in rural America focuses on relationships – healthcare providers get to know the people they care for and have the opportunity to practice more patient-centered medicine; and,

WHEREAS, the main emphasis of rural health care has always been on providing affordable, holistic, primary care – a model for the rest of the country to follow as America transitions to a wellness/prevention-based system of health care; and,

WHEREAS, rural hospitals and health systems are often the economic foundation and largest employers of their communities; and,

WHEREAS, the healthcare needs of rural citizens are as unique as the communities in which they live and cannot be addressed by utilizing a “one size fits all” approach; and,

WHEREAS, addressing transportation, workforce, infrastructure and broadband/telecommunication needs and overcoming geographic barriers is necessary to ensure that all rural safety net providers can adequately meet the basic healthcare needs of the residents they serve; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders provide services and resources and foster relationships that help rural communities address their unique healthcare needs; and,

WHEREAS, National Rural Health Day will be celebrated throughout America on November 19, 2015;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2015 to be **RURAL HEALTH DAY** in Illinois in honor of National Rural Health Day.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this FOURTEENTH *day of* OCTOBER, *in*

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

FIFTEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*

one hundred and NINETY-SEVENTH.

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SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR